



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

November 29, 2000

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Don Sloma, Executive Director
RE: PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN – 2000 UPDATE

Background and Summary

In February of this year the Board approved the Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP) Work plan. This priority project included a number of tasks involving Board members and staff. Dr. Locke and Dr. Gray served as the Board's Sponsors of these activities. John Beare led the staff's efforts on public forums. Beth Berendt had the staff lead on Access to Critical Health Services and Data Standardization Issues. I led staff efforts on the Communications, Public Health Standards, and Key Health Indicators Committees. I have attached the matrix from the Board's PHIP work plan that lists the previously approved activities as well as a brief report on the status of each task.

Joan Brewster will be joining us to provide a review of the entire PHIP and its draft recommendations.

The PHIP Steering Committee will be meeting on the afternoon of December 6, 2000 to consider final action on their draft report for 2000.

Subsequent to that action, PHIP work on Key Health Indicators, Communications Issues and more may be coming before the Board for your information, review or endorsement.

Recommended Board Action:

None at this time, this presentation is for information only. However, any support, questions, cautions, concerns or other views of the Board or any of its individual members would be helpful.

State Board of Health Approved Activities

Work plan Element	Objectives 1999-2001	Approved SBOH Involvement	Status
Communication	✓ <i>Research completed that helps formulate effective communications</i> ✓ <i>Products and training provided</i>	1. Participate in Communications Committee 2. Hold Public Forums	?? Staff participated in one meeting of the group to develop key messages. ?? SBOH conducted 3 public forums in Spokane, Tri-Cities and Port Townsend. Participation was dominated by public health officials. The Board concluded that the format of any future forums should be improved to engage members of the general public.
Key Health Problems	✓ <i>Core indicators selected for ongoing tracking, a "report card"</i>	3. Participate in Key Health Indicators Committee	?? Staff participated on committee ?? The Committee developed a proposed Washington Report Card for Health – a set of "Key Health Indicators." ?? "Key Indicators" can be endorsed by Board or used as a basis for the Board's next state health report.
Access to Health Care Services	✓ <i>Study of access issues related to basic preventive services which have significant public health implications</i>	4. Contract for expert assistance and provide staff support	?? Board contracted with MCPH consulting ?? Menu of Critical Health Services was adopted in July, 2000 ?? Survey of Data availability for measurement was conducted. ?? Based on results of measurement feasibility study the Board decided to not proceed with direct measurement at this time but to disseminate the recommended menu of critical health services. Obtain comments for health providers, community members, public health and other agencies to determine whether there

Work plan Element	Objectives 1999-2001	Approved SBOH Involvement	Status
			is a general consensus on which of these services should be accessible to all.
Information and Technology	Electronic reporting of notifiable conditions Surveillance linked to disease reporting Electronic Funds transfers	5. Assure that rules support use of electronic formats and support electronic systems that contribute to public health access	<p>?? Electronic reporting option was considered but ultimately not included in the revised Communicable Disease Reporting Regulation due to public concerns regarding protection of confidentiality.</p> <p>?? Board organized two information exchange meetings with the Utah Health Information Network in Seattle and Salt Lake City. There was broad attendance by key state agency and private health carrier data systems leaders.</p>
Workforce Development	Orientation system for new public health managers General training for workers, local board members Continued LBOH workshops Leadership development program		Board members and staff participated in May 2000 LBOH Leadership workshop, leading a discussion of SBOH-LBOH relationships
Financing	Seek options to increase flexibility in how funds are used Increase alignment between funding, standards, and desired outcomes		Not Applicable
Accountability/ Standards for Public Health	Test proposed standards Involve Local Boards of Health Develop realistic implementation plan and schedule	6. Participate in Committee on Public Health Standards	<p>?? Staff participated in the Committee Work</p> <p>?? Committee recommends that the proposed standards be adopted with some modifications, which will be presented in the final PHIP report.</p>